



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 131**

*January Session, 2003*

Substitute House Bill No. 6299

*House of Representatives, April 1, 2003*

The Committee on Public Safety reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWERS OF THE POLICE OFFICER  
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL RELATIVE TO  
COMPREHENSIVE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR THE  
ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
UNITS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2003*):

4 (a) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall have the  
5 following powers:

6 (1) To develop and periodically update and revise a comprehensive  
7 municipal police training plan;

8 (2) To approve, or revoke the approval of, any police training school  
9 and to issue certification to such schools and to revoke such

10 certification;

11 (3) To set the minimum courses of study and attendance required  
12 and the equipment and facilities to be required of approved police  
13 training schools;

14 (4) To set the minimum qualifications for law enforcement  
15 instructors and to issue appropriate certification to such instructors;

16 (5) To require that all probationary candidates receive the hours of  
17 basic training deemed necessary before being eligible for certification,  
18 such basic training to be completed within one year following the  
19 appointment as a probationary candidate, unless the candidate is  
20 granted additional time to complete such basic training by the council;

21 (6) To require the registration of probationary candidates with the  
22 academy within ten days of hiring for the purpose of scheduling  
23 training;

24 (7) To issue appropriate certification to police officers who have  
25 satisfactorily completed minimum basic training programs;

26 (8) To require that each police officer satisfactorily complete at least  
27 forty hours of certified review training every three years in order to  
28 maintain certification, unless the officer is granted additional time not  
29 to exceed one year to complete such training by the council;

30 (9) To renew the certification of those police officers who have  
31 satisfactorily completed review training programs;

32 (10) To establish uniform minimum educational and training  
33 standards for employment as a police officer in full-time positions,  
34 temporary or probationary positions and part-time or voluntary  
35 positions;

36 (11) To visit and inspect police basic training schools and to inspect  
37 each school at least once each year;

38 (12) To consult with and cooperate with universities, colleges and

39 institutes for the development of specialized courses of study for  
40 police officers in police science and police administration;

41 (13) To consult with and cooperate with departments and agencies  
42 of this state and other states and the federal government concerned  
43 with police training;

44 (14) To employ an executive director and any other personnel that  
45 may be necessary in the performance of its functions;

46 (15) To perform any other acts that may be necessary and  
47 appropriate to carry out the functions of the council as set forth in  
48 sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive;

49 (16) To accept contributions, grants, gifts, donations, services or  
50 other financial assistance from any governmental unit, public agency  
51 or the private sector;

52 (17) To conduct any inspection and evaluation that may be  
53 necessary to determine if a law enforcement unit is complying with the  
54 provisions of this section;

55 (18) At the request and expense of any law enforcement unit, to  
56 conduct general or specific management surveys;

57 (19) To develop objective and uniform criteria for granting any  
58 waiver of regulations or procedures established by the council;

59 (20) To recruit, select and appoint candidates to the position of  
60 probationary candidate, as defined in section 7-294a, and provide  
61 recruit training for candidates of the Connecticut Police Corps  
62 program in accordance with the Police Corps Act, 42 USC 14091 et  
63 seq., as amended from time to time;

64 (21) To develop, adopt and revise, as necessary, comprehensive  
65 accreditation standards for the administration and management of law  
66 enforcement units; to grant accreditation to those law enforcement  
67 units which demonstrate their compliance with such standards and, at

68 the request and expense of any law enforcement unit, to conduct such  
69 surveys as may be necessary to determine their compliance with such  
70 standards.

71 Sec. 2. Section 7-294b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
72 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

73 (a) There shall be a Police Officer Standards and Training Council  
74 which shall be within the Division of State Police of the Department of  
75 Public Safety for administrative purposes only and which shall consist  
76 of the following members appointed by the Governor: (1) A chief  
77 administrative officer of a town or city in Connecticut; (2) the chief  
78 elected official or chief executive officer of a town or city in  
79 Connecticut with a population under twelve thousand which does not  
80 have an organized police department; (3) a member of the faculty of  
81 The University of Connecticut; (4) eight members of the Connecticut  
82 Police Chiefs Association who are holding office or employed as chief  
83 of police or the highest ranking professional police officer of an  
84 organized police department of a municipality within the state; (5) the  
85 Chief State's Attorney; (6) a member of the Connecticut Coalition of  
86 Police and Corrections Officers; [and] (7) a member of a collective  
87 bargaining unit of police officers; and (8) five public members. The  
88 Commissioner of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
89 special agent-in-charge in Connecticut or their designees shall be  
90 voting ex-officio members of the council. Any nonpublic member of  
91 the council shall immediately upon the termination of his holding the  
92 office or employment which qualified him for appointment cease to be  
93 a member of the council. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be  
94 appointed for the unexpired term of the member whom he is to  
95 succeed in the same manner as the original appointment. The  
96 Governor shall appoint a chairperson and the council shall appoint a  
97 vice-chairperson and a secretary from among the members. The  
98 members of the council shall serve without compensation but shall be  
99 entitled to actual expenses involved in the performance of their duties.

100 (b) Membership on the council shall not constitute holding a public

101 office. No member of the council shall be disqualified from holding  
102 any public office or employment by reason of his appointment to or  
103 membership on the council nor shall any member forfeit any such  
104 office or employment by reason of his appointment to the council,  
105 notwithstanding the provisions of any general statute, special act or  
106 local law, ordinance or charter.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>

**PS**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Police Officer Std. & Training Council	GF – Future Cost	Potential	Potential

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Various Municipalities	Cost	Minimal	Minimal

**Explanation**

The bill authorizes the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) to develop an accreditation process for law enforcement units in the state.<sup>1</sup> In addition to federal grants, the bill provides that those law enforcement units seeking accreditation would cover related expenses. Consequently, passage of the bill could result in potential future costs to the state due to the expiration or unavailability of such funding. It is anticipated that there would be two durational positions associated with the development and implementation of this process, including a field program consultant that would serve as the primary coordinator and a part-time secretary. These costs, including fringe benefit costs, would be approximately \$60,000 - \$80,000 per year.

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<sup>1</sup> According to POST, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association has already begun developing a list of guidelines to be used in completing a comprehensive accreditation standards process.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6299

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWERS OF THE POLICE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL RELATIVE TO COMPREHENSIVE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITS****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the powers of the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council by allowing it to (1) develop, adopt, and revise comprehensive accreditation standards for the administration and management of law enforcement units; (2) grant accreditation to those law enforcement units that comply with the standards; and (3) at the request and expense of any law enforcement unit, conduct any surveys necessary to determine compliance.

The bill also expands the council's membership from 20 to 21 by adding a member of a collective bargaining unit of police officers. The governor appoints this member and all but the two ex-officio members.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage, except for the accreditation provision which is effective October 1, 2003.

**BACKGROUND*****Council Membership***

The council consists of:

1. one municipal chief administrative officer,
2. the chief elected official or chief executive officer of a town or city with fewer than 12,000 people and without an organized police department,
3. one University of Connecticut faculty member,

4. eight Connecticut Police Chiefs Association members,
5. the chief state's attorney,
6. one member of Connecticut Coalition of Police and Corrections Officers, and
7. five public members.

The public safety commissioner and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's special agent-in-charge in Connecticut or their designees are voting, ex-officio members.

### **THE COUNCIL**

By law, the council is responsible for training and certifying police officers, defined as municipal police, appointed constables who perform criminal law enforcement duties, certain special policemen, and members of any law enforcement unit who perform police duties. The law exempts from its scope, state police officers, municipal animal control officers, and fire police, among others.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 20      Nay 0